

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A method of securing at least two workpieces, comprising the steps of:

inserting a bolt shaft through a bore hole formed in each of the at least two workpieces;

applying a sealant to the at least two workpieces; ~~and~~

engaging a locking collar with the bolt shaft such that the locking collar is securely deformed in a locking manner thereby forcing the sealant to ~~uniformly~~ distribute and form a ~~thin~~ surface sealant layer on the bolt shaft; and

forming a seal and an adhesive bond between said locking collar and said bolt shaft with said surface sealant layer.

Claim 2 (Original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the applying step applies the sealant to the two workpieces before the inserting step inserts the bolt shaft into the bore hole of each of the at least two workpieces.

Claim 3 (Original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the applying step applies the sealant directly to the bolt shaft before the inserting step inserts the bolt shaft into the bore hole of each of the at least two workpieces.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein the bolt shaft has a locking portion including a plurality of grooves around a surface of the bolt shaft

and a plurality of peaks at least some having a parallelogram shape and being disposed between the ~~plurality of~~ grooves, and

wherein the sealant is uniformly distributed via the plurality of grooves around the surface of the bolt shaft when the engaging step engages the locking collar with the bolt shaft.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 4, wherein the plurality of grooves extends ~~extend~~ in spiral directions helically around the surface of the bolt shaft.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 4, wherein the plurality of grooves ~~include~~ includes a first group of spiral grooves that respectively extend in a clockwise spiral direction and a second group of spiral grooves that respectively extend in a counterclockwise spiral direction and intersect with said first group of spiral grooves.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 4, wherein the plurality of grooves ~~include~~ includes a plurality of first grooves extending in a circumferential direction of the bolt shaft and a plurality of second grooves extending in a direction parallel to ~~the circumferential~~ an axial direction such that the first and second grooves intersect with each other.

Claim 8 (Original): The method according to claim 4, wherein the parallelogram shape is a diamond parallelogram shape.

Claim 9 (Original): The method according to claim 4, wherein the parallelogram shape is a pyramid shape with a four-sided base.

Claim 10 (Original): The method according to claim 4, wherein the parallelogram shape is a square or rectangular shape.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein when the engaging step engages the locking collar with the bolt shaft, excess sealant is squeezed out a second end of the bolt shaft via at least one groove on a surface of the bolt shaft, wherein said at least one groove ~~that~~ opens to an outside at an axial end of the locking portion.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 4, wherein respective ones of said ~~plurality of~~ grooves intersect with one another so that all of said ~~plurality of~~ grooves are interconnected and intercommunicated with each other, and

wherein at least one of said ~~plurality of~~ grooves extends to and opens at an open groove end at an axial end of said locking portion along an axial direction of the bolt shaft such that excess sealant is squeezed out the open groove.

Claim 13 (Original): The method according to claim 4, wherein said locking portion excludes all annular circumferential grooves.

Claim 14 (Original): The method according to claim 4, wherein each of the plurality of peaks includes a parallelogram shape.

Claim 15 (Original): The method according to claim 4, further comprising:

breaking off a break-away portion of the bolt shaft that is connected to said locking portion.

Claim 16 (Original): The method according to claim 15, wherein the breaking step breaks off the break-away portion by breaking a constricted neck encircled by a circumferential groove.